

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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Whole No. 475

Hybrids, Oddities and Freaks

By Denis R. Rogers



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES NO. 148

BEADLES NEW DIME NOVELS

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Reprint of Beadles Dime Novels.

Hybrids, Oddities and Freaks

By Denis R. Rogers

A hybrid edition is one where the imprint on the title page differs from that on the casing. Hybrids arose because stocks of texts and covers were rarely maintained at equal levels. It followed that, when a change of name took place (e.g., Porter & Coates became Henry T. Coates & Company and Henry T. Coates & Company was taken over by The John C. Winston Company) the inheriting publisher sometimes found himself with larger stocks of covers than of texts or vice versa.

A hybrid consisting of a remainder text (i.e., one with the former publisher's imprint at the foot of the title page) and a new cover (i.e., with the name of the inheriting publisher on it, usually at the foot of the spine) is of special interest where the cover format is the same as that used by the former publisher. That is because it implies the acquiring publisher's intention to continue using the old format. The converse type of hybrid indicates not only a sensible using up of stocks of casings taken over but, also, the intention of the inheriting firm to continue publishing the title.

A remainder text bound up in another publisher's covers does not necessarily indicate an intention to keep the book in print: the re-casing may have been solely for the purpose of selling off the remainder stocks of texts acquired.

Oddities differ from freaks in that they are the result of deliberate departures from the normal, whereas freaks can be attributed fairly to human error.

The following are examples of oddities which have come to my notice:

1. In the early days of "Saturday Night" its publishers issued the first four chapters of a serial, "The Prairie Outlaws. A Romance of the Far West" by Geoffrey Randolph, in dime novel booklet form. The back of the buff wrapper was printed to the order of local stockists of "Saturday Night" and you will find an example illustrated and described as Dime Novel Sketches No. 98 in the issue of "The Roundup" for February 1968. This booklet was intended to aid the transformation of the Philadelphia periodical from a local reform sheet to a popular story paper with a national circulation.

Another copy of this attractive advertising gimmick is in the Yale Collection of Western Americana, the advertisement on its back wrapper being for Henry Todd, dealer in books, stationery, blank books, toys, toy books, newspapers, periodicals, magazines, fancy goods, etc., at No. 206 Purchase Street, New Bedford, Mass.

2. Around the turn of the century campaign literature volumes were sold by subscription at the time of presidential elections. These volumes contained articles by leading politicians about the burning issues of the day, potted biographies of the presidential and vice-presidential candidates and histories of past campaigns.

The subscription book was a device to foster direct sales by the publisher

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to the reader. Success depended on securing a sufficient number of promises to buy to provide the publisher with a profit on a limited edition and the books offered were usually fat, glossy and relatively expensive.

During that heyday of the subscription book publishers sent their salesmen the length and breadth of the land to knock on doors and obtain signatures binding the customer to pay for the book on delivery in due course.

The oddity in front of me as I write is the order book of one of those colporteurs. On first glance it appears to be a copy of "The Voter's Guide to the Campaign of 1900." When opened, however, it is seen to contain only selected extracts from the book, plus a number of ruled sheets bound in at the back for the signatures of subscribers agreeing to buy the book. Also pasted inside the front cover is a strip sample of the morocco binding in which the more expensive of the two editions—the other was bound in cloth stamped in gold and colors—was being offered.

3. Cover designs were stamped with dies on to the plain cloth. One die procured the common features of a format used for more than one title: then separate dies were employed for each title and other individual design features. When a publisher continued to use a particular cover design over a number of years some of the dies became unserviceable through wear, damage or breakage. Such mishaps may well be the explanation of interesting oddities coming to light from time to time, where the cover format seems to make nonsense of an otherwise logical publication pattern.

4. A number of early Beadle's Dime Novels were reprinted in France in 1865 and 1866 in translations by Camille de Cendrey. When the translations were reprinted in 1900 by Didier et Méricant in their "La Nouvelle Collection Illustrées" all reference to the original American writers was dropped and Camille de Cendrey was shown as author.

Clearly that was done because the names of long dead dime novel authors would do nothing to promote sales. The superficial conclusion is that this made Camille de Cendrey a joint pseudonym of such widely different dime novelists as Ann S. Stephens, Metta V. Victor, N. William Busteed and Edward S. Ellis. In fact Camille de Cendrey was a pen name, but only of Charles Bernard Durosne (1825-1924), a Frenchman who attained a modest degree of literary eminence in his lifetime.

Although this is the only example I have come across of a translator being credited with full authorship, similar literary usurpations may have happened to other popular authors, whose works were translated into other languages.

5. The Price-McGill Company of St. Paul reprinted a long serial, "The Young Scouts of Wyoming. A Thrilling Tale of the Revolution" by Lt. R. H. Jayne (Frank Leslie's Boys' & Girls' Weekly from 11 March through 19 August 1876) in three cloth bound volumes, under the titles, "The Wilderness Fugitives," "The River Fugitives" and "Lena-Wingo the Mohawk," giving Ellis' real name as author.

These books were of slim value for money and so the St. Paul publisher padded them out with illustrations, which were included in the pagination. When Henry T. Coates & Company bought the publication rights and reprinted the three volumes in their cheap Roundabout Library for Young People, all the illustrations, except the frontispiece, were discarded. Consequently, as the texts were printed from the original plates, on first glance the Coates and Winston editions appear to have pages missing.

Probably this type of oddity occurred not infrequently and so the moral for collectors is not to be too hasty in discarding "defective" volumes, for appearances can be deceptive!

6. Cheap book publishers, such as M. A. Donohue & Company, were not

over particular about their production standards, but one oddity connected with that well-known Chicago publisher has struck me as especially peculiar.

Donohue reprinted in the U.S.A. ten short tales, which Edward S. Ellis had contributed to "Little Folks," a magazine for the younger reader published by Cassell & Company in London, England. Originally these ten tales were issued by Donohue as individual volumes on atrocious pulp paper. Then, probably during the First World War, Donohue re-issued the ten tales in five double volumes, each containing two tales printed from the single volumes plates.

The only title page was that of the first tale in the double volume and, also, the cover shows only the title of the first tale. It is difficult to find any logical reason for Donohue not making clear the fact that the books being offered for sale were double volumes.

7. Issuing the same book under a number of different titles was such a common malpractice of publishers that, even when the different titled editions were on sale at the same time, the changed titles can hardly be termed oddities. Where, however, different stories by the same author are issued under the same title, my view is that such duplications must be regarded as strange, if only as an act of bad business for the duplicator. An example will serve to show what I mean.

In 1864 Beadle & Company issued a dime novel by Edward S. Ellis under the title, "The Lost Trail." Many years later, in 1884, Ellis contributed a story about Deerfoot the Shawanoe to "The Golden Argosy," again using the title, "The Lost Trail." There is no connection between the two stories apart from the title and, after such a lapse of time, the old dime novel had doubtless been forgotten by all concerned.

During 1885 the Deerfoot tale was reprinted as a cloth bound book by Porter & Coates, once more as "The Lost Trail." When, around 1911, Hurst & Company decided to reprint the old dime novel in a cloth bound edition, they did not change the title, despite the fact that The John C. Winston Company, the successors to Porter & Coates, was still offering "The Lost Trail" (i.e., the Deerfoot tale).

It is difficult to believe that Hurst was unaware of the existence of Winston's "The Lost Trail." It might be assumed, therefore, that Hurst hoped to secure orders, which otherwise would have gone to Winston, by means of a lower selling price. Against such a presumption, however, must be set the countervailing drawback that a book, which had been in print continuously since 1885, might be expected to have less market potential than a new Ellis work. It is an interesting problem, therefore, as to why Hurst failed to alter the title of the old dime novel so as to avoid a clash with the well known Deerfoot yarn, and speculation is bound to be inconclusive.

Another Ellis example is "Lost in the Rockies," a title used for different tales by A. L. Burt on the one hand and by Donohue on the other hand. I think similar duplications may well have happened with the works of other popular authors, such as Horatio Alger Jr., but it seems to me that there can be no standard theory to account for such duplications: each instance will need to be considered in the light of its own background.

(To be continued)

Mrs. Charles Tonn announced the sad news of the death of one of our earliest members, Charles Westbrook. Mr. Westbrook was born on August

13, 1894 and has been counted among the membership since the 1920's. He will be missed by many of his correspondents.

WANTED

The following dime novels in any edition

Barney Blake, the Boy Privateer, by Herrick Johnston

The Flyaway Afloat; or, Yankee Boys Round the World
by Charles Dunning Clark

The Young Landlubber; or, Prince Porter's First Cruise,
by Charles Dunning Clark.

Mrs. Helen P. Hoyt

1434 Punahou St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

BUY, SELL OR TRADE

in the following

Nicholas Carter—Weeklies, paperback, novels, magazines
1891-1936

Street & Smith Detective Story Magazine and other pulps.
Gilbert Patten (Burt L. Standish) Merriwells, Big League
Series and other titles.

Max Brand (and pseudonyms) all titles.

Edgar Wallace.

John Rhode and Miles Burton

John Creasey (and pseudonyms).

John Machen

6331 Belair Road, Baltimore, Md. 21206

A BOOK GRABBER'S GRIPES

By Jack R. Schorr

Several Sundays ago I made a trip out through Lake Elsinore to a small desert town nearby where I had heard the store had a lot of old books. It was a pleasant trip and we stopped at many an antique shop enroute, my wife to look at glass and myself to ask if they had any books. I might mention that I have found many this way, one or two at a time hidden among lots of books I wouldn't look at twice. When we got to our destination, I felt from the looks of the outside they must have some good ones, at least a couple of the Lakeport Series, or a Clif Sterling book or two. Outside it was early adobe with barred windows. I am not so sure it was not an old jail that had been converted into a store.

When I got inside I could smell them. You know that musty old book smell that your nose tells you that you are among the pages of 1890's. The place was packed with antiques of all descriptions, and among them were hundreds of old magazines, Harpers in bound volumes, lots of very old antiquarian books of 1850 vintage. I asked the owner if he had any old boys' books. I showed him my want list. "Yes," he said, "I have many of these in our storehouse." "Where is your storehouse?" I asked. "Next door," he replied. I had expected him to name a place miles away. "But," he added, "I can't let anyone in there, under any circumstances." Talking myself blue in the face had no effect. The storehouse may have been 100 miles away, for all the good it did me. I gave him a list of those I wanted most, with a promise from him to check. I would hate to count on hearing from him, because I know I won't.

This experience I have had many times over in different ways, and I am sure you have too. Sometimes it's the back room where they sort books, or it's the basement where thousands are stored. Really, I can't blame the dealer, because if he let some in there they would tear it apart, but if they would only let me, I would only look.

I wouldn't mess things up. Well, so it goes.

Another thing I have found that I do is to go into a book store and see some series that I really don't collect, but have a hard time arguing myself out of buying, because they are in fine shape, or in dust jackets, or, like my wife says, "for any other stupid reason." After I leave without them I have second thoughts and go back several days later for them. If it's not too far, involving another trip and often to find them gone. One such incident comes to mind where I saw in a San Diego shop about eight or ten Bombi books by Roy Rockwood, all first editions in dust jackets. I never collected them, but after I got home I thought about them in that condition and wrote about them. Have you ever done that?

Of course, as is often the case, the dealer hasn't answered, although a stamped addressed envelope was included with a sheet of stationery. So I wrote again, so don't know if they are there or not. I guess they are too busy to bother about an inquiry about a prospective sale.

How many times have you picked up a good copy of a certain book, knowing it will be an improvement over what you have, to bring it home only to find the one you have is in the same condition, and often better? That's what makes duplicates grow.

I have found also the book you feel certain you don't have when you are out without your list, is the very one you have already when you get home. I have gotten so that I ask the dealer if I find I have the book can I trade it back, and most dealers are nice about this.

Another odd thing is when you find one you thought you would never find, you find another and another. I had looked and looked for "Sophomore Halfback" by Hare for my good friend Bob Chenu to help him complete his set. I finally found one. A month later I found another; a short time after that I found four of Hare's Series in one store. That's not an easy series to pick up either.

The Racer Boys came the same way.

I found one in Hollywood in nice condition. It wasn't six weeks before I found three more in nice condition. I had looked for years for my original set, but these duplicates were easy.

These are experiences we all have had one time or another and I guess it's what makes our hobby interesting. Who wants to walk into a book store and find, without effort, a complete set of Hancocks, all the Dave Darrins, Defense of U. S. series, etc., mint in dust jackets?

I would!

FOR SALE

Back numbers "Readers Digest" also "Popular Mechanics" cheap.

Eli A. Messier

Box 1122, Woonsocket, R. I. 02895

WANTED

Leo Edwards books:

Inferior Decorators, Sacred Pig, Cock-eyed Ghost, Lost Fortune, One Ring Circus, Monkey's Paw.

Advise condition and price.

William J. Pothoff

427 Graeser Rd., St. Louis, Mo. 63141

FOR SALE

Boxes of Boys Books to sell or trade. Send for lists. Also buying Young Klondikes.

Dave Kanarr

1032 14th St., Bellingham, Wn. 98225

FOR SALE

Merriwell stories in Tip Top Weekly. Early and late numbers. Send want list; too many to catalog. Good condition and reasonable prices. Also WANTED: in nice condition, Magnet and New Magnet Library and Merriwell Series.

GUINON

Box 214, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

Stamp brings list of old paperbacks for sale.

Irene Gurman

23498 Parklawn, Oak Park, Mich. 48237

Back numbers Reckless Ralph's Dime Novel Roundup (quite a few reprints, can't be helped). Don't have the complete set of No. 17 to 237 inclusive, but almost, lacking only a few numbers. 10c each or \$21.00 postpaid. Have at least 230 numbers or more. Also two indexes, 1 Pioneer and Scouts of the Old West, Birthday number, War Library list and Dime Novel Catalog.

Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St., So. Grafton, Mass.
01560

OLD PULP MAGAZINES WANTED

Such as Doc Savage, Shadow, Spider, Unknown, Phantom, Western Story, Wild West, G-S, Wings, "spicy" mags and many others in the all-fiction field. Must be in excellent condition. What have you? Send list and price wanted. No comics or books.

Back Numbers

Box 214, Little Rock, Ark. 72203

WANTED

Western Americana—Literature
Prints

Outlaws, Peace Officers, Range,
Indians.

Western Novels, Illustrated Westerns.
American Artists and Illustrations.

Books Listed in: 6 Guns, Herd, USIA-NA, Rader, Dykes, Larned, Wright,
BAL.

American Fiction before 1910

First Editions of—Will James, Ross Santee, Paul Wellman, Charles King, S. E. White, C. Sonnichson. Illustrated First Editions by—Remington, Russell, Bryant, Bjorklund, Bugbee, Borein, Blumenschein, Beeler, Cisneros, Christy, Deming, Dunn, Dixon, Ellsworth, Eggenhofer, Hurd, Hargens, Kent, Koerner, Lea, Mora, Marchand, Moon, Pyle, Schoonover, Schreyvogel, N. Wyeth, Zogbaum.

Early Radio books and Catalogs.

Books about Books, Bibliographies.

Checklists and American Catalogs.

BOB DAWSON, AMERICANA BOOKS

P. O. Box 38, Hazlet, N. J. 07730

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

346. C. J. Storkan, 5276 Lynch Ave., Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124 (New member)
 215. Rev. Theodore M. Blanchard, Box 117, Mapleton, Maine 04757 (New add.)
 347. John Scott, 368 Gibbons St., Oshawa, Ont., Canada (New member)
 348. Willis J. Potthoff, 427 Graeser Road, St. Louis, Mo. 63141 (New mem.)
 349. Ye Olde Book Shoppe, 208 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif. 90812 (New member)
 350. Mrs. Frank J. Sullivan, 64 Morningside Ave., Waterbury, Conn. 06708 (New member)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

You couldn't have picked a better issue than the one you sent. Thank you so much for your time and your interest in my book. When it gets published, you shall have a copy to review.

Sometimes we folks in Texas think we've cornered the market on being friendly and helpful. It always surprises us some to find people in other places willing to help. Thank you for being one of them.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joyce Roach,
 Box 143, Keller, Tex. 76248

Mrs. Roach is writing a book on cowgirls and is devoting a chapter to those heroines in western dime novels. Anyone else who can be of help is invited to write her.

Dear Mr. LeBlanc:

... I can well understand the popularity of Horatio Alger, Jr. as his writing is excellent, and can still be enjoyed today. Ragged Dick: or, Street Life in New York apart from being a story, could be said to be part of the social history of that time. What is interesting is that I am sure that Char-

les Hamilton based his "Ragged Dick" boy from the slums to Greyfriars in the Magnet in the 20's in a well written series. My book THE SAINT AND LESLIE CHARTERIS is almost certain to be published (the USA edition) by Bowling Green Press, whilst the other book on Crime Fighters is under consideration from an English publisher.

W. O. Lofts,
 56 Sheringham House,
 Lisson Street,
 London, N. W. 1, England

RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES
CONCERNING DIME NOVELS

DIME NOVELS AND THE GAUDY GLORIOUS PULPS, Anonymous. In Vol. 1 No. 3, December 1971-January 1972 issue of IMPACT, 107 Walter Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minn. 55455. A fast paced article bringing attention to the fact that the University of Minnesota has a large collection of dime novels, though not yet available for research due to cataloguing problems. The article contains some errors but that is to be expected in trying to cover such a huge subject in a few paragraphs.

WANTED

Top Notch Magazines featuring Frank Meriwell stories, late 1920's and early 1930's, also other Top Notch Magazines around those years. Reasonably price.

Fred Ellis

2062 Bogart Avenue, Bronx, New York 10462

FOR SALE

Capt. James Carson: The Saddle Boys on Mexico Trails	
Covers soiled, otherwise o.k. -----	\$1.25
Robert L. Drake: The Boy Allies Under Two Flags, fair	1.15
H. Irving Hancock: The Motor Boat Club on the Kan-	
kakee, Fair -----	1.00
Capt. Gordon Bates: Khaki Boys Fighting to Win, C&L	
good -----	1.50
Elaine Stowe: Over the Seas for Uncle Sam, Britton Pub.	
Good -----	2.00
G. A. Henty: The Young Carthaginian. Burt. Good ----	1.25
Victor Appleton: Tom Swift & His Wireless Message. Gd	2.00
Tom Swift and His Motor Cycle. Fairly good ----	1.25
Tom Swift Among the Diamond Mines. Good ----	1.50
Tom Swift and the City of Gold. Good -----	1.25
G. A. Henty: Orange and Green. Federal Book Co. Fair	1.00
Harold Sherman: Tahira. Goldsmith. Good, deep red cov.	1.25
George B. Fife: Lindberg, the Lone Eagle. World Syn.	1.25
G. Waldo Browne: With Rogers Rangers. A Wessale Co.	
Stained -----	1.00
J. T. Trowbridge: The Drummer Boy. Hurst. Break in	
spine -----	1.00
Richard Bonner: The Boy Inventor's Wireless Triumph,	
Hurst. Fine -----	1.25
R N. Stephens: Philip Winwood. L. C. Page Co. Nice --	1.50
A. Wathingham Seers: The Earth & Its Life. World Bk.	1.25
John & Alice Durant: Pictorial History of the American	
Circus. A. S. Barnes Co. 1957. Nicely illustrated,	
some in color. Like new -----	6.00

Will give \$1.00 for Dime Novel Roundup #23

Ralph F. Cummings

161 Pleasant St.

So. Grafton, Mass. 01560

ATTENTION OLD TIMERS

Advanced collector of boy's old juveniles needs following hardbacks to complete his library. When quoting, supply publisher, (date if given), condition and price. Many of these I already have, but I am endeavoring to better edition or condition or both.

LEO EDWARDS

Andy Blake (G&D—yellow front)
Andy Blake's Secret Service
Andy Blake and the Pot of Gold
Andy Blake: Boy Builder
Trigger Berg and the Treasure Tree
Trigger Berg and His 700 Mousetraps
Trigger Berg and His Sacred Pig
Trigger Berg and the Cock-eyed Ghost
Tuffy Bean's Puppy Days
Tuffy Bean's One-Ring Circus
Tuffy Bean at Funny Bone Farm
Tuffy Bean and the Lost Fortune
Tuffy Bean's Hunting Days

W. BERT FOSTER

With Ethan Allen at Ticonderoga—Penn
Swept Out to Sea—Donohue

WILLIAM J. LONG

School of the Woods—Ginn & Co.
Beasts of the Field
Fowls of the Air
Little Brother to the Bear
Following the Deer
Wood Folk series

BROOKS McCORMICK

The Boys in the Forecastle—Street & Smith or U.S. Book
The Giant Islanders
How He Won

HUGH PENDEXTER

The Young Timber Cruisers—Small Maynard & Co.
The Young Gem Hunters
The Young Woodmen
The Young Loggers
The Young River-Drivers
The Young Fishermen
The Young Pilots
The Young Seiners
The Young Trawlers
The Young Skippers

PAUL WAITT

The Adventures of Mollie, Waddy and Tony—Little, Brown

VICTOR ST. CLAIR

Little Snap, the Post Boy

JOSEPHINE HOPE WESTERVELT

The Lure of the Leopard Skin—Fleming H. Revell

J. W. DUFFIELD (Special want to complete series)

Bert Wilson on the Gridiron—Sully & Kleinteich—4 illus.

(See previous Roundup issues for other titles wanted)

LEO F. MOORE — 16412 Gentry Lane — Huntington Beach, Calif. 92647